

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5464

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL, ETRD, CA

SUBJECT: COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS AND OFFSET CONSULTATION REQUESTS

REF: OTTAWA 4141

1. SUMMARY. GOC HAS SUGGESTED MARCH 11 AS DATE FOR COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTATION BUT IS UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO FIX DATE FOR OFFSET CONSULTATION AT THIS TIME. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT U.S. AGREE TO MARCH 11 DATE. END SUMMARY.

2. ON BASIS TELEPHONED ADVICE FROM STATE/EB/GRIMMER JANUARY 14, EMBASSY INFORMED EXTAFF OF U.S. PREFERRED DATES OF MARCH 26-27 FOR COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS AND OFFSET CONSULTATIONS AND OTHER POSSIBILITIES, I.E. ANY TWO DAYS DURING WEEKS OF MARCH 10-14. MARCH 24-28, AND MARCH 31-APRIL 4. HAVING NOTED APPARENT REPEAT APPARENT LACK OF COORDINATION BETWEEN SUBSTANTIVE EXTAFF OFFICERS CONCERNED WITH RESPECTIVE CONSULTATIONS, EMBASSY LAID SPECIAL STRESS ON U.S. DESIRE TO ARRANGE CONSULTATION BACK-TO-BACK IN ORDER TO AVOID REPEAT TRIP TO OTTAWA FOR SENIOR MEMBERS U.S. DELEGATION.

3. ON JANUARY 20, MCARTHUR (EXTAFF'S TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY DIVISION) TELEPHONE EMBASSY

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TCO TO SAY THAT, OF DATES PUT FORWARD BY U.S., GOC  
PREFERRED MARCH 11 FOR COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS  
CONSULTATION. IN RESPONSE TO TCO'S QUESTION RE DATES  
FOR OFFSET CONSULTATION, MCARTHUR SAID HE WAS AWARE OF  
OUR REQUEST FOR BACK-TO-BACK DATES BUT HAD NO  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR OFFSET CONSULTATION AND COULD NOT  
COMMENT ON THEM.

4. ON JANUARY 21, ECON COUNSELOR RAISED MATTER WITH  
MS. MCDOUGALL, (DIRECTOR-GENERAL, ECONOMIC AND SCIENTIFIC  
AFFAIRS BUREAU) WHO HAD BEEN OUT OF OTTAWA ATTENDING  
OECD MEETING WHEN POSSIBLE DATES WERE COMMUNICATED TO  
EXTAFF ON JANUARY 14. (IN HER ABSENCE, REPRESENTATIONS  
HAD BEEN MADE TO SHANNON, DIRECTOR OF COMMERCIAL POLICY  
DIVISION.) ECON COUNSELOR REFERRED TO MCARTHUR'S CALL  
WHICH CONSTITUTED ONLY PARTIAL RESPONSE, POINTED TO WIDE  
RANGE OF POSSIBLE DATES SUGGESTED BY U.S. AND LONG LEAD  
TIME, AND URGED AGAIN THAT GOC COME FORWARD WITH  
COORDINATED RESPONSE GIVING BACK-TO-BACK DATES.  
MS. MCDOUGALL SAID THAT TWO COMPLETELY DIFFERENT SETS  
OF PEOPLE WERE INVOLVED ON GOC SIDE FOR TWO CONSULTATIONS  
AND IT SEEMED IMPOSSIBLE TO FIND BACK-TO-BACK DATES  
THAT WOULD SUIT EVERYONE. SHE WOULD HEAD GOC DEL TO  
COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTATION AND WAS ABLE TO  
FIT MARCH 11 IN WITH HER SCHEDULE. MCARTHUR HAD BEEN  
FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS WHEN HE CALLED TCO. SHE COULD  
NOT PROMISE WHEN GOC WOULD BE READY TO RESPOND ON DATE  
FOR "AEROSPACE/OFFSET" CONSULTATION. SHE SUGGESTED  
THAT WE FIRM UP MARCH 11 DATE FO COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS  
AND DEAL WITH OTHER CONSULTATION SEPARATELY.

5. ECON COUNSELOR EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS POSITION.  
HE NOTED THAT EARLIEST DATES SUGGESTED BY U.S. WERE  
SEVERAL WEEKS AWAY AND ASKED WHETHER MS. MCDOUGALL  
WAS SUGGESTING THAT GOC HAD GIVEN UP ON TRYING TO ARRANGE  
BACK-TO-BACK DATES. MS. MCDOUGALL SAID GOC HAD NOTED  
AND UNDERSTOOD U.S. DESIRES BUT HAD ITS OWN PROBLEMS.  
IN RATHER CIRCULAR DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED SHE REPEATED  
IN VARIOUS WAYS THAT IT WAS "UNLIKELY THAT BACK-TO-BACK  
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DATES COULD BE FOUND," "I COULDN'T HONESTLY TELL YOU  
THERE IS MUCH CHANCE," "I AM NOT AT ALL OPTIMISTIC."  
IN END, SHE SAID IF U.S. ATTACHED MORE IMPORTANCE TO  
TIMING THAN TO GETTING ON WITH SUBSTANCE SHE WOULD  
WITHDRAW SUGGESTION TO HOLD COMPUTER/COMMUNICATION  
CONSULTATION MARCH 11 BUT COULD NOT PROMISE WHEN OR  
WHETHER GOC WOULD BE ABLE TO COME UP WITH BACK-TO-BACK  
DATES. ECON COUNSELOR SAID HE WOULD REPORT THIS TO

WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH MS. MCDUGALL WAS CAUTIOUS IN HER REMARKS AND WOULD NOT BE DRAWN OUT BEYOND WHAT IS REPORTED ABOVE, ECON COUNSELOR INFERRED THAT BASIS FOR GOC POSITION IS NOT PRIMARILY SCHEDULING DIFFICULTIES BUT DESIRE TO MAKE CLEAR SEPARATION BETWEEN SUBSTANCE OF TWO CONSULTATIONS. WHEREAS U.S. TENDS TO TIE TWO TOGETHER IN TERMS OF PRIMARY FOCUS ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT CONSIDERATIONS AS WELL AS MAKEUP OF ITS DELEGATION, GOC EVIDENTLY WANTS TO DIFFUSE DISCUSSIONS WITH RESPECT TO BOTH CONTENT AND TIMING. IN THIS CONTEXT, WE NOTE THAT SHANNON LAST MONTH SUGGESTED TO EMBASSY THAT GOC MIGHT PROPOSE A BROADER DISCUSSION OF THE NORTH AMERICAN AEROSPACE INDUSTRY TO TAKE UP SOME (UNSPECIFIED) ISSUES OF CONCERN TO IT. TCO SOUGHT TO DISCOURAGE THIS APPROACH AND INDICATED WE HAD REQUESTED THE CONSULTATIONS TO DEAL WITH SPECIFIC TRADE POLICY ISSUES. HOWEVER, WE SUSPECT THAT WHEN GOC SUGGESTS A DATE IT MAY PUT FORWARD A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ABOUT U.S. POLICY TOWARD THIS INDUSTRY SIMILAR TO THOSE IT HAS POSED WITH RESPECT TO COMPUTER COMMUNICATIONS.

7. EMBASSY FINDS THIS POSITION OF GOC SOMEWHAT LESS THAN FORTHCOMING. WE RECOMMEND, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. AGREE TO MARCH 11 FOR COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTATION SINCE IT IS DIFFICULT TO ARGUE THAT CONVENIENCE OF U.S. DEL. SHOULD BE CONTROLLING CONSIDERATION. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR EARLY RESPONSE ON DATE FOR OFFSET CONSULTATION. IT IS NOT INCONCEIVABLE THAT ONCE AGREEMENT IS REACHED ON DATE FOR COMPUTER/COMMUNICATIONS CONSULTATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AS SEPARATE OPERATION, GOC WILL FIND THAT IT CAN ACCOMMODATE US WITH ADJACENT DATE FOR OFFSET CONSULTATION AFTER ALL. IF NOT, WE WILL AT LEAST BE GETTING ON WITH THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS ALREADY LONG-DELAYED MATTER. ALTERNATIVE OF REJECTING MARCH 11 AND INSISTING ON BACK-TO-BACK DATES RISKS FURTHER LENGTHY DELAY.  
PORTER

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## Message Attributes

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